

To: Federal Communications Commission

I am submitting these comments in response to the FCC's "Notice of proposed rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising". The purpose of a democracy is so that everyone has a voice. So that it's not just one person or a select few that make decisions for the people as a whole. At times in our capitalistic get rich quick society this idea gets lost and decisions are made on who can shell out the most amount of money as seen with some recent scandals in Washington. So where is it that the little guy can turn to get his voice heard?

Public access television is that place and if rules like 05-311 get passed the little guy will find it that much harder to get his/her voice heard. Public Access TV provides a direct look into our communities where else can you find a show for Hispanics that talk about issues in their communities followed by a show for seniors that tell them about events for seniors in the areas or that break down exactly what is happening with Medicare. Commercial stations are all about making money but Public Access is all about the people and the people are what drive this country and therefore they deserve a place to go to find out about local issues. The only time persons in the community hear from politicians is when they're up for reelection but with Public Education Government (PEG) networks the public has an opportunity to view proceedings from their homes helping them to be a part of their local governments and isn't this what a democracy is all about.

I'm all for competition and feel that Verizon and other companies should be allowed to explore other revenue means, but this should not be at the expense of the public's voice.

I currently work for Montgomery Community Television (MCT) an access station in the suburbs of the D.C. area and even after my time as an employee at MCT I plan to continue using Public Access Television as a means to get local issues out to the community. I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of Local franchises.

LET THE PEOPLE BE HEARD!!

Regards,
Christopher A. Overby Jr.